

Coins

Philly-style record, Texas-style bankruptcy

By Roger Boye

SOME numismatic miscellany:

● The U. S. Mint in Philadelphia set a one-day coinage production record last month: 30.6 million coins in one day. In 1864, the Philadelphia Mint took about six months to make that many coins.

● Large coin dealers aren't immune to the risk involved in speculating in large quantities of gold coins, and silver bullion and coins.

One of the nation's larger coin companies, the El Paso [Texas] Coin Co., filed for

bankruptcy last month. The company, which did a multimillion-dollar monthly business in gold coins, is believed to have lost about \$1 million in June and July due to a \$25-an-ounce drop in the price of gold.

Speculation in gold and silver coins is risky. True numismatists collect coins to learn about their history and beauty and, secondarily, as a long-term investment.

● As many as 10,000 coins commemorating the 1976 summer Olympic games to be held in Montreal have been put into circulation in

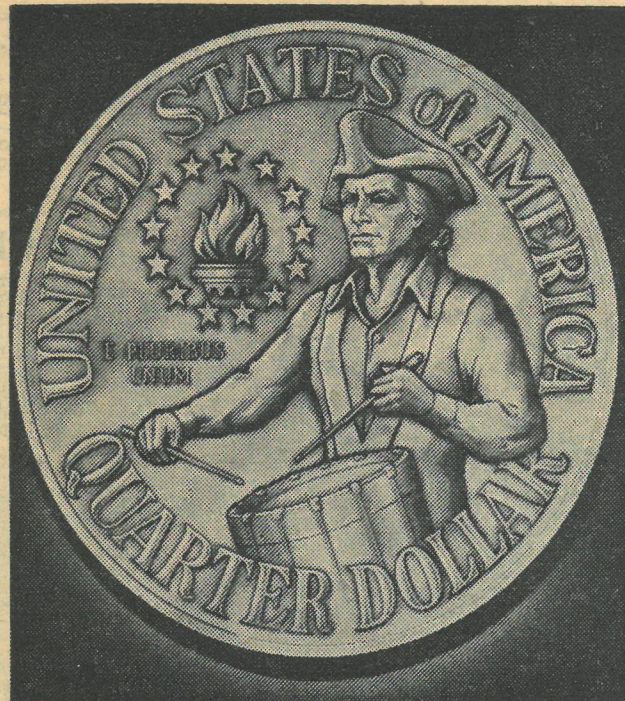
Canada . . . all bearing the wrong date. The error coins, part of a series to honor the Olympics, carried the year 1974 instead of 1973.

The coin has a face value of \$10. About two million of the coins were made with the correct 1973 date.

Dealers say the error coins probably are worth at least \$50 each.

● The U. S. Mint will begin to take orders Friday for bicentennial quarters, half-dollars, and dollar coins.

The three-piece proof set will cost \$15; the three-piece uncirculated set will cost \$9.



*Reverse of
the bicentennial
quarter*

double date, 1776-1976.

The bicentennial quarters, half-dollars, and dollar coins to be made for general circulation will bear the same designs, but will contain no silver. These 40 per cent silver coins are offered especially for collectors.

The reverse of the bicentennial quarter was designed by Jack L. Ahr of Arlington Heights.

Requests for order forms should be sent to Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. The Mint will accept orders thru Jan. 31.

Maximum order is five sets per customer.

The coins offered in this sale will contain 40 per cent silver. All three will have

new reverse designs to commemorate the American bicentennial. The obverse [heads side] designs will remain the same, except for a